

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 XMB-02

/088 W

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R 261921Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3200

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1319

DEPT PLEASE PASS ARA POSTS FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: SUGAR: LA PRODUCERS MEETING AT PUERTO PLATA

REF: A. STATE 61168; B. STATE 66492; C. SANTO DOMINGO 1293

1. AFTER INFORMING FONSEC GOMEZ BERGES YESTERDAY MORNING OF DESIGNATION OF DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AS BENEFICIARY COUNTRY UNDER TRADE ACT OF 1974 (REF B), AMBASSADOR TOOK OCCASION TO RAISE SUBJECT OF PUERTO PLATA SUGAR PRODUCERS' MEETING ALONG LINES REF A. GOMEZ REPLIED THAT DOMREP ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY HIGH PETROLEUM PRICES AND NEEDED ADEQUATE PRICES FOR ITS EXPORTS TO HELP MAKE ENDS MEET. WHATEVER STEPS GODR MIGHT TAKE, HOWEVER, WOULD BE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF POLICY ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER ON FEB 27 (REF C), GOMEZ STATED. AMBASSADOR RE-EMPHASIZED THAT STEPS TO KEEP SUGAR ARTIFICIALLY HIGH MIGHT WELL TURN OUT TO BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

2. AMBASSADOR ALSO STRESSED THAT APRIL 21 WAS NOT THE TIME FOR A LOT OF PUBLICITY COMING FROM THE DOMREP ABOUT DISCUSSIONS
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OF PRICE FIXING MECHANISMS AMONG SUGAR PRODUCERS. GOMEZ

RECALLED THAT AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION (HE COULD NOT REMEMBER WHICH) HAD INQUIRED ABOUT OBSERVER STATUS AT THE PUERTO PLATA MEETING AND HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN ON THE BASIS THAT MEETING WAS "CONFIDENTIAL". ACCORDINGLY, GOMEZ THOUGHT THAT THERE MIGHT NOT BE ANY PUBLICITY OR IF ANY, LIMITED TO DESCRIBING A "TECHNICAL MEETING."

3. YESTERDAY AFTERNOON GOMEZ TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD INFORMED PRESIDENT BALAGUER OF MORNING'S CONVERSATION. HE SAID THAT BALAGUER (1) VERY MUCH APPRECIATED PRESIDENT FORD'S HAVING PLACED THE DOMINICAN REPLUBLIC ON LIST OF BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES, (2) CATEGORICALLY RE-AFFIRMED HIS POLICY STATEMENT OF FEB 27 TO THE EFFECT THAT DOMREP WOULD AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH US, ESCHEW UNILATERAL ACTION REGARDING SUGAR, AND WOULD ONLY PARTICIPATE IN MEASURES, IF ANY, THAT TOOK FULL COGNIZANCE OF CONSUMERS' POSITION; AND (3) TO EXTENT GODR COULD CONTROL MATTERS, PUBLICITY WOULD HIGHLIGHT ASPECTS OF MEETING RELATING EXCHANGE

OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION.
HURWITCH

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ARA POSTS.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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